

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /087 W

-----073620 011158Z /23

O 011110Z MAR 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 574

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1131

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH TO RECEIVE NEW PLAN FOR  
INTERIM GOVERNMENT

REF: PRETORIA 1118

1. UNDER THE BANNER HEADLINE "NEW BLACK PLAN FOR RHODESIA"  
IN THE MARCH 1 EDITION OF "THE CITIZEN", IAN BLACK REPORTED

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THAT ALL THREE BLACK PARTIES ENGAGED IN THE INTERNAL TALKS,  
SITHOLE, MUZOREWA, AND CHIRAU, HAVE AGREED AMONGST  
THEMSELVES ON A NEW FORMULA FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

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ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THE BLACK LEADERS HAVE DECIDED  
THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT SHOULD  
ROTATE AMONGST ALL FOUR PARTIES. OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE  
NEW PROPOSAL REPORTEDLY INCLUDE WHITE PARITY ON THE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND A "PREPONDERANCE" OF BLACKS  
IN THE LOWER COUNCIL. THE NEW "BLACK PLAN" IS SUPPOSED  
TO BE SUBMITTED TO SMITH IN WRITING ON THE AFTERNOON

OM MARCH 1.

2. IAN BLACK ALSO REPORTED THAT ON FEBRUARY 28, SMITH PRESENTED THE NATIONALIST LEADERS WITH HIS CABINET'S VIEWS ON ACHIEVING A TIMELY AGREEMENT ON AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. AFTER THE MEETING, ONE UNIDENTIFIED NATIONALIST SAID "HE GAVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT WHAT HE WAS TOLD WAS THAT EITHER THERE SHOULD BE AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY, OR NO INTERIM GOVERNMENT AT ALL. OUR FEELING IS THAT MR. SMITH IS GOING TO COOPERATE IN SETTING UP AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT VERY SOON INDEED." NATIONALIST LEADERS CLAIMED THAT SMITH WAS NOT ADVERSE TO THEIR DESIRE FOR ESTABLISHING AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN EARLY MARCH AND AIMING TOWARD INDEPENDENCE BY DECEMBER, 1978.

3. OTHER MARCH 1 MORNING NEWSPAPERS DID NOT CARRY ANY STORY OF A NEW PROPOSAL.  
BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERIM GOVERNMENT, AGREEMENTS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014